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Torture

- The United States position on torture is clear: **U.S. criminal law and treaty obligations prohibit torture**, and the United States will not engage in or condone torture anywhere.
- The President of the United States has emphasized that **"torture is wrong no matter where it occurs**, and the United States will continue to lead the fight to eliminate it everywhere."
- On the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, June 26, 2005, President Bush said that, "The United States reaffirms its commitment to the worldwide elimination of torture. Freedom from torture is an inalienable human right, and we are committed to building a world where human rights are respected and protected by the rule of law."

Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment
& the "McCain Amendment"

- The recently-enacted Detainee Treatment Act of 2005 ("McCain Amendment") enshrined in law a long-standing policy prohibiting cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of detainees. It also re-emphasizes the important message that the United States upholds the values of freedom and humanity on which it was founded. This provision represents constructive cooperation between the executive branch and Congress and received strong bipartisan support.

Firm Response to Violations of U.S. Standards

- Nevertheless, the United States has been criticized for our actions in the war against terrorism, including allegations of torture. We believe this criticism has arisen in part because of the actions of some individuals who violated our laws and policies in our armed conflict with al-Qaeda.

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- **The United States sincerely regrets these incidents.** The USG takes very seriously any allegations about mistreatment of detainees in the war on terror.
- In any case where the accusation was well-founded, my government has taken legal action against those who committed such acts.
- My government has carried out 12 major reviews of abuse allegations, and over **600 criminal investigations** into such allegations. Over **100 individuals have been held accountable** for alleged detainee abuse (i.e. courts-martial, confinement for a term of years, non-judicial punishment, reprimand and separation from the service).
 - After the investigations into Abu Graib, for example, one individual was tried and sentenced to ten years in prison. Another was sentenced to eight years, another to three. The General and Colonel in charge were reprimanded or demoted.

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